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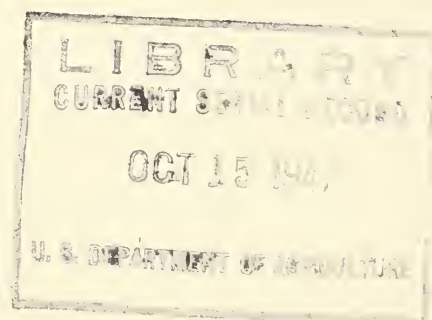
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SUMMARY OF DEVELOPMENTS

in the

MEXICAN OUTBREAK OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

With Supplementary Information
on United States Cooperation
in Control Measures



NOTE: This report has been prepared on the basis of the best information obtainable at the time of compilation but is subject to revision and amplification as new facts become available. Additional supplemental reports will be issued as significant developments in eradication work occur. The first report in this series was prepared January 23, 1947.

Highlights of Recent Developments in the Eradication Campaign

Since August 30 when Supplement No. 7 was issued, a number of new campaign developments have occurred. They are summarized as follows:

Mexican President issues decree authorizing immediate destruction of infected or exposed animals.

Efforts of minority political extremists to hamper campaign countered with strengthened support of eradication from Mexican Government and responsible segments of public opinion.

Research leaders of United States and Britain visit Mexican foot-and-mouth area, urge all-out support for method of eradication-by-slaughter, and plan international research project into all phases of disease.

Additional technical personnel and machinery arrive in Mexico, more en route.

A report on the total number of animals slaughtered.

Commission financial proposals studied.

Wild life infection believed at a minimum.

Cleaning and disinfection operations completed in States of Aguascalientes and San Luis Potosi.

Mexican President Issues Decree Providing for Compulsory Immediate Slaughter of Infected and Exposed Animals

On September 18, in response to the request of the Mexican-United States Commission for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, President Miguel Aleman of Mexico issued a decree authorizing immediate disposition of all cattle, swine, sheep, and goats certified by official veterinarians of the commission to be either infected with the ailment or exposed to it. The decree went into effect on September 22.

Before the issuance of the decree, the work of the commission had been delayed in some areas because of the unwillingness of animal owners to sacrifice their animals or to accept the indemnity offered. In these cases, owners denied permission to slaughter their animals until they had exhausted appeal procedures.

Under the terms of the decree, the owner will no longer be able to forestall the slaughter of infected or exposed animals while appealing the indemnity settlement. After the animals have been certified to be infected or exposed and the Mexican and United States appraisers have agreed on valuations, the animals will be slaughtered and buried promptly. The owner, if dissatisfied with the indemnity offered him, may then appeal. Relatively few appeals have been filed in the past and the commission expects no increase in the future.

Officials pointed out that the decree will appreciably speed up eradication operations, lessen possibilities of spread of the disease, and contribute to an earlier successful end of the campaign.

Efforts of Political Extremists to Hamper Campaign Countered
With Increased Efforts of Mexican Government

On September 1, a Mexican veterinarian on the staff of the joint commission and six soldiers were killed by a mob in the State of Michoacan. Subsequent investigations by Mexican military authorities established the fact that the mob was organized and incited to violence by a group of extremists.

To make sure that the lives of United States personnel in adjacent areas would not be in danger in what appeared to be a locally unsettled condition, the commission ordered the temporary cessation of all field operations in the eastern portion of Michoacan and several other similarly affected areas.

To meet the challenge and avoid possible future interference of a like nature, the Mexican section of the commission working with the Mexican Government immediately sought to: (1) strengthen military forces attached to the commission and (2) launch a far-reaching educational campaign on all phases of the eradication effort that would reach to the most remote countryman.

In the two weeks that followed the Michoacan incident, hundreds of State and local committees, composed of local leaders in all walks of life, were set up to spread accurate information on the need for eradication and the wisdom of the measures being employed to that end. Steps are also being taken to make sure that these committees will be supplied with a constant stream of educational material in various forms from Mexico City headquarters.

U.S., British Research Leaders Visit Mexico, Urge Backing
of Present Eradication Plans, Explore Research Project

Dr. Harry W. Schoening, head of the Pathological Division of the Bureau of Animal Industry, and Dr. I. A. Galloway, director of the British Government's Virus Research Institute at Pirbright, Surrey, England, conferred with Mexican and United States veterinarians in Mexico City September 17-20.

At the conclusion of their visit, which included research discussions and a brief field trip, the two scientists issued a statement urging full support of the eradication-by-slaughter method in Mexico and announcing their hopes that an international research effort can soon be launched into all phases of the disease. They went from Mexico City to Washington, D. C. where they held further conferences with other United States research leaders -- Dr. R. E. Shope of the Rockefeller Foundation, Dr. Jacob A. Traub of the University of California, and Dr. William A. Hagan of Cornell University.

Additional Personnel and Machinery Arrive to Push
Eradication Efforts

Approximately 370 United States technicians of various professions and over 1,400 pieces of automotive and heavy equipment are engaged in the drive to stamp out foot-and-mouth disease in Mexico, according to official tabulations. More men and machinery are arriving almost daily. A random sampling of the major equipment items received from the United States and now in active field

use includes 180 jeeps, 100 light trucks, 71 bulldozers, 59 scrapers, 10 power shovels, 35 heavy trucks, 122-truck trailers, 268 power spray pumps, 25 pay-masters' cars.

Average Cattle Indemnity Payment, \$49.53

The total number of cattle slaughtered for which indemnities have been paid in the eradication campaign stood at 299,319 on September 27. The average indemnity for these animals was \$49.53. Progress of the eradication work has been temporarily slowed by delay in consummating financial arrangements between the two governments, by unrest among the country people induced by agitators, and by a holiday period. Cattle slaughter for the week ended September 13 was 8,140 head and for the week ended September 20 was 4,873 head. The small slaughter for the latter week was due largely to limited operations because of the Mexican national holidays, which began September 13 and continued through September 16. During the week ended September 27, cattle slaughter amounted to 13,735 head, representing a distinct upward trend. With renewed determination being expressed by the Mexican Government in the form of additional military protection and a greatly intensified program of popular education, commission officials expect full-scale operations to be resumed soon in all areas.

Negotiations on Campaign Financing

Proposals submitted to both the Mexican and United States Governments by the joint commission for a pooled system of financing to provide a steady flow of funds adequate for paying indemnities on all animals slaughtered are in process of negotiation. The proposals are directed toward putting eradication operations by the joint commission on a continuing basis without being subject to work interruptions caused by lack of funds. The proposed plan also provides for a more vigorous implementation of the mules-and-tractors-for-oxen program which is essential to the existence of Mexican farmers and to popular cooperation with eradication efforts.

Mexican Wild Game in Infected Areas May not Present Serious Problem

Wild-life experts attached to the commission have reported that, contrary to earlier expectations, wild animals may not be too serious a problem in the foot-and-mouth disease campaign. Peccaries (wild pigs) and some small deer are present but most of the deer have been driven farther north, in recent years, by hunters. Unless there is a serious drought in these northern Mexican areas, wild game experts expect the deer to stay on their present ranges. Employees of the commission are now bringing in, for veterinary examination, sample specimens of the wild life found in the northern part of the infected area. Should the infection prove to be more serious than is now believed, a corps of experienced Mexican hunters will be recruited to free the area of susceptible wild life.

States of Aguascalientes and San Luis Potosi
Now Free of Known Infection

Reports from the quarantine and disinfection division of the joint commission now indicate that all premises formerly occupied by infected or exposed animals in the States of Aguascalientes and San Luis Potosi have been completely cleaned and disinfected.

Animals involved in the earlier scattered outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease in these States have long since been eliminated, and these two States are now in a final stage of quarantine and inspection. The sanitary forces of the commission successfully finished their work on approximately 1,800 corrals, stables, and farm yards during the period September 17-24.

Supplementary Information

Since the issuance of Supplement No. 7 on August 30, the Department has released, for public distribution, the following material relating to foot-and-mouth disease:

Picture Story No. 39, "Foot-and-Mouth Disease Campaign in Mexico Makes Steady Progress." Press release descriptive of 8 photographs, August 31, 1947.

Push Present Drive Against Foot-and-Mouth Disease in Mexico; Research Planned. Press release, September 24, 1947

Wild-Game Problem Believed Less Acute than Feared in Mexican Foot-and-Mouth Campaign. Press release, September 30, 1947